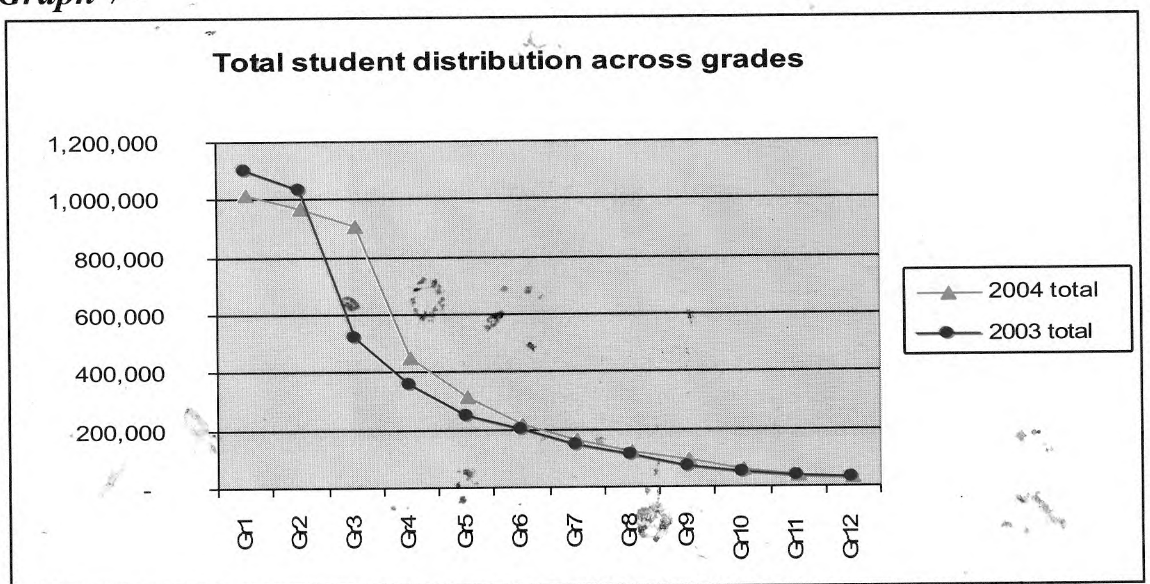
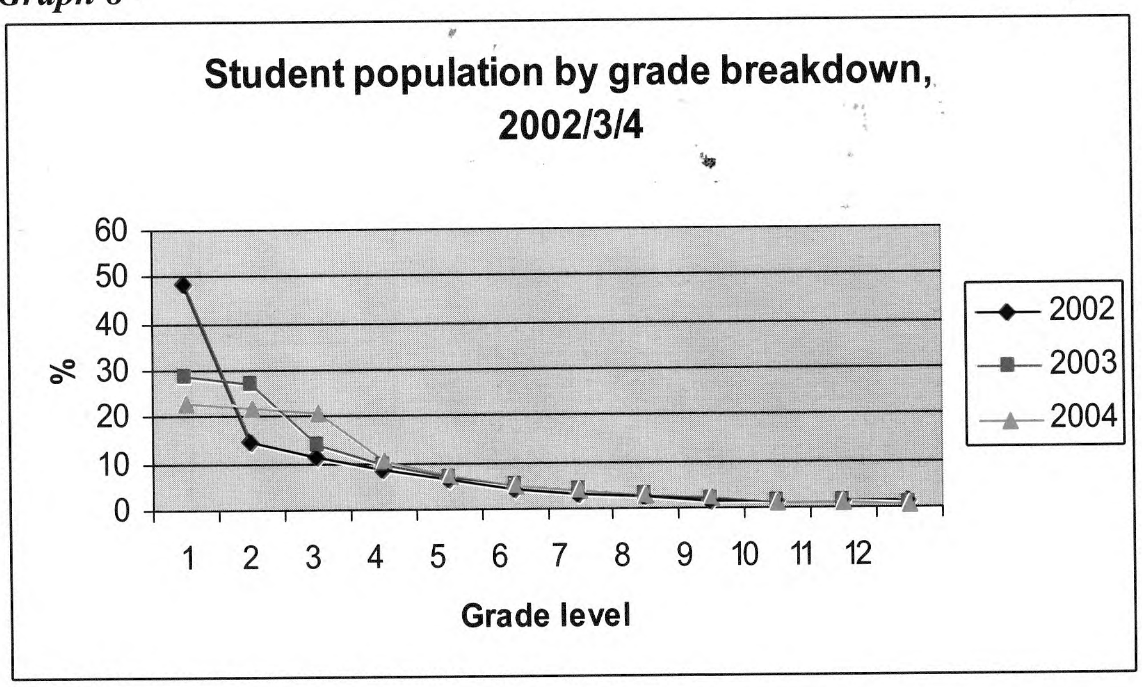
Table 10 – Total student distribution across grades in %

	% per grade vs. total		
Grade	2002	2003	2004
1	48	28	23
2	14	27	22
3	11	13	21
4	8	9	10
5	6	6	7
6	4	5	5
7	3	4	4
8	2	3	3
9	1	2	2
10	1	1	1
11	1	1	1
12	1	1	1

Graph 7 -



Graph 8 -



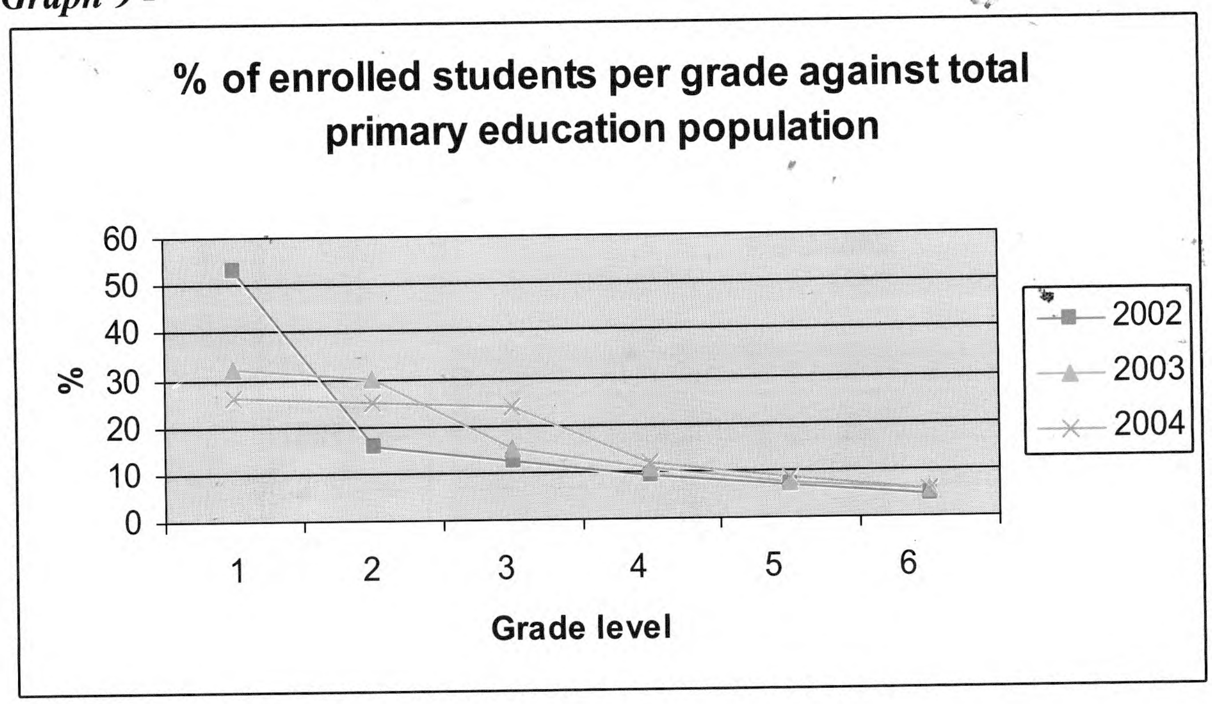
2.5. The distribution of students among grades within the primary level shows more than 50% of primary school age students were enrolled in grade 1 in 2002, which can be attributed to the Back-to-School campaign. With the cohort enrolling under the 2002 Back-to-School moving on within the primary school age system and stable new cohorts enrolling in 2003 and 2004, the primary grade population became more evenly spread among grades, esp. grades 1-3.

At the secondary school level, the situation remains the same regarding grade 7, which represents app. 1/3 of the secondary school age population in 2004, as it did in 2002. The distribution among grades 9 to 11, which due to re-enrolment of large numbers of students held equal shares of 11% in 2002, has normalized over the years: the higher the grade level, the lower the absolute numbers and hence, the relative share.

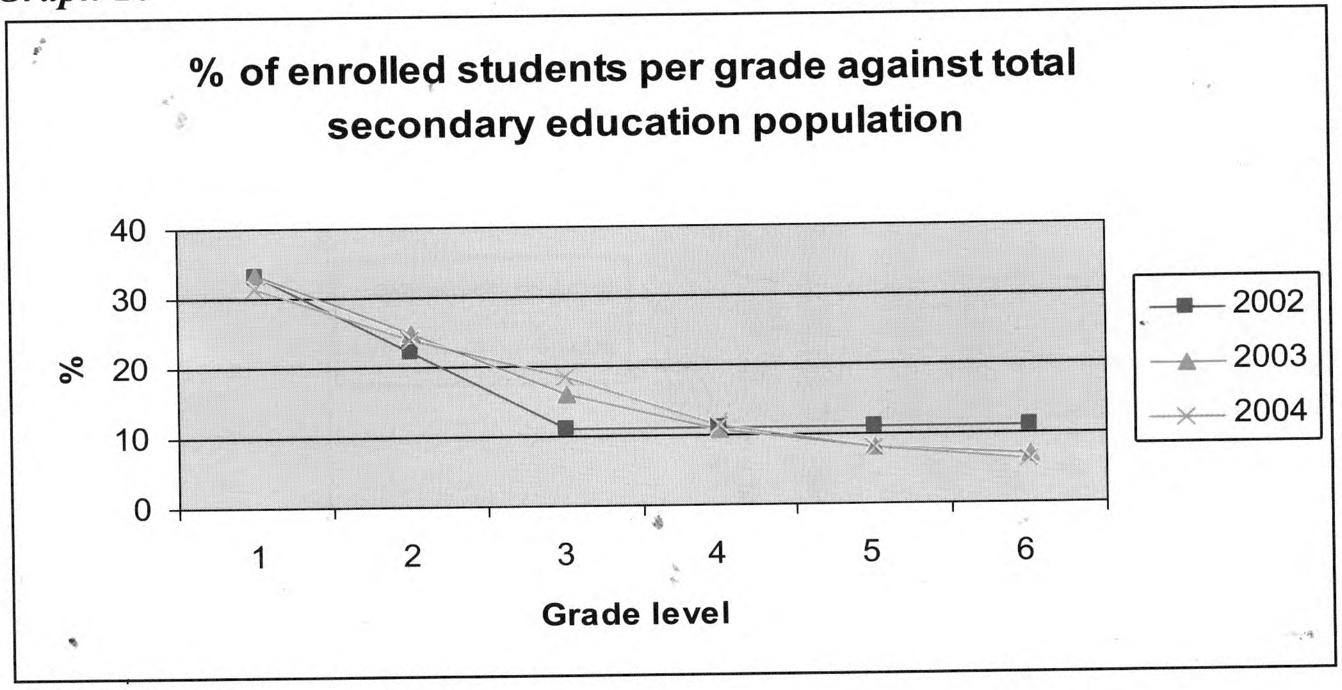
Table 11 - % distribution of grade population by education sector

% distribution of grade population by education sector	Grade	2002	2003	2004
	1	53	32	26
	2	15	30	25
	3	12	15	23
	4	9	10	12
	5	7	7	8
	6	4	6	6
	gr 1-6 in %			
	7	33	33	31
	8	22	25	24
	9	11	16	18
	10	11	11	11
	11	11	8	8
	12	11	7	6
	gr 7-12 in %			

Graph 9 -



Graph 10 -



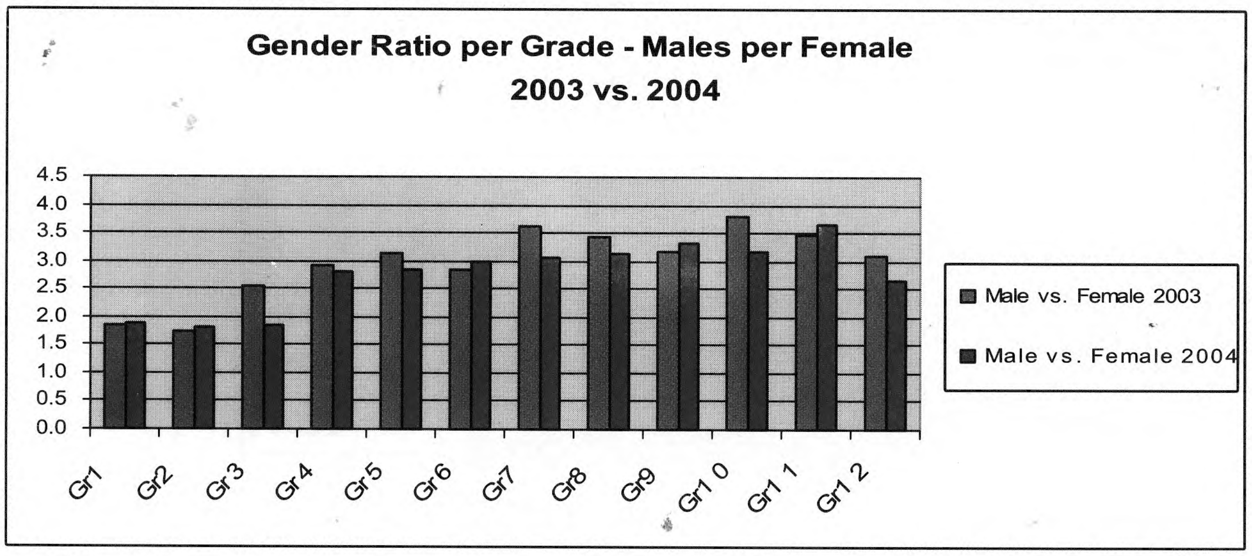
2.6. The gender ratio worsens from lower to higher grades, peaking in disfavour of girls at grade 10/11 level. Between 2003 and 2004, the overall tendency slightly improved. From 2003 to 2004, the average gender ratio across grades changed from 3:1 to 2.8:1 boys per girl and remained stable at .4:1 girls per boy, including all grades.

For grades 1-6, the gender ratio changed from 2.5:1 boys per girl to 2.4:1 (girls per boy changing from .4:1 to .45:1. For grades 7 to 12, between 2003 and 2004, the gender ratio changed from 3.4:1 to 3.2:1 males per female (female to male ratio changing from .3:1 to .32:1).

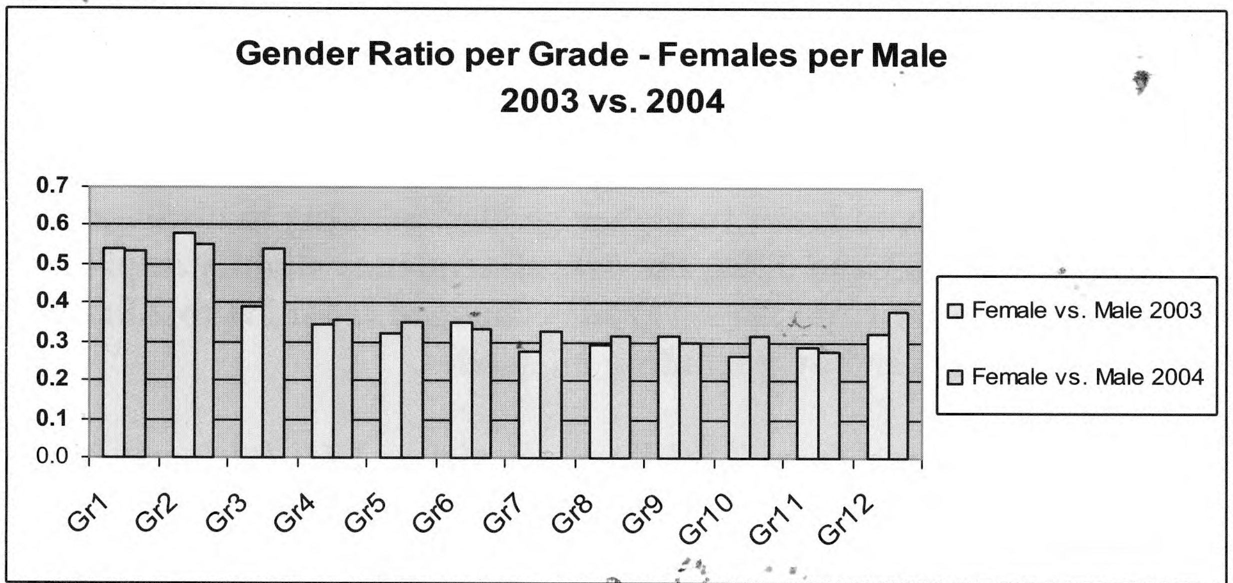
Table 12 -

	Gender ratio			
	Male vs. Female		Female vs. Male	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Gr1	1.9	1.9	0.5	0.5
Gr2	1.7	1.8	0.6	0.5
Gr3	2.6	1.9	0.4	0.5
Gr4	2.9	2.8	0.3	0.4
Gr5	3.1	2.8	0.3	0.4
Gr6	2.9	3.0	0.4	0.3
Gr7	3.6	3.1	0.3	0.3
Gr8	3.4	3.1	0.3	0.3
Gr9	3.2	3.3	0.3	0.3
Gr10	3.8	3.2	0.3	0.3
Gr11	3.5	3.7	0.3	0.3
Gr12	3.1	2.6	0.3	0.4

Graph 11 -



Graph 12 -



2.7. On average, every tenth student, regardless of gender or grade level, will drop out and not survive the grade transition to the next grade. This said, 9 out of 10 who started the grade level will continue at the next level, looking at the overall average.

Analyzing the grade transition data within the primary sector more specifically, the depletion or drop-out rate averages at 11% for boys and 12.5% for girls, whereas the corresponding retention rate averages at 89% for boys and 87.5% for girls. The secondary sector shows an average depletion rate of 13% for boys and 10.5% for girls. Correspondingly, the respective retention rates average at 87% and 89%.

Table 13 – 2003-4 depletion and retention rates by gender per education sector

2003-4	Average in %			
	male depletion	female depletion	male retention	female retention
Primary	11.2	12.5	88.8	87.5
Secondary	13	10.6	87	89.38

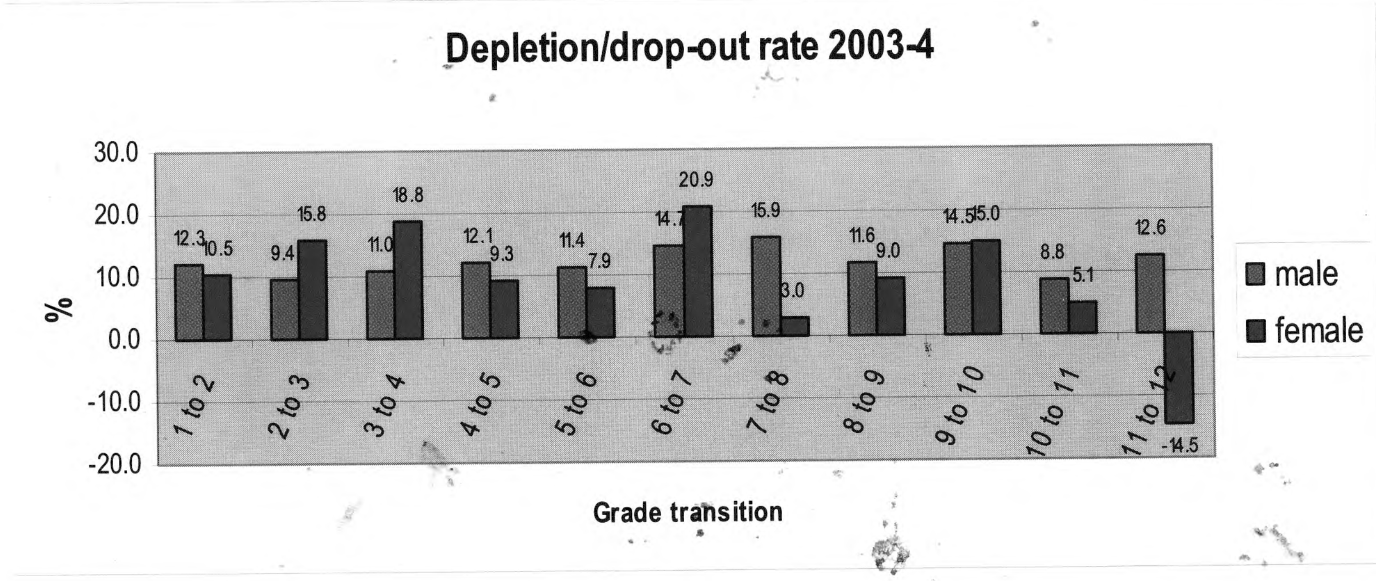
More dramatically and significant in terms of policy decisions, the transition rate from grade 6 to 7 represents a real threshold in that it prompts the highest depletion rates and lowest retention. This is specifically valid for girls among whom more than 20% of those eligible do not make the transition, with less than 80% continuing their education.

Table 14 -

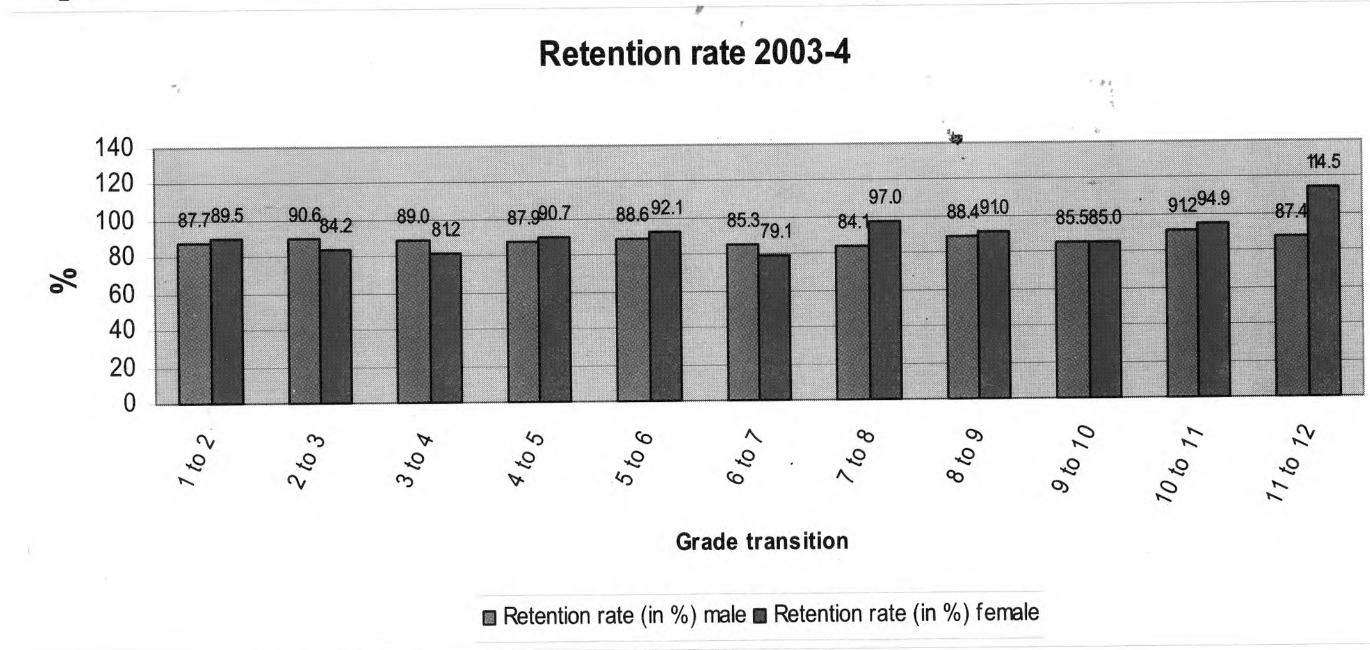
Depletion / Drop-out Rate 2003-4 (in %)			Retention/Survival Rate 2003-4 (in %)		
Grade	Male	Female	Grade	Male	Female
1 to 2	12.3	10.5	1 to 2	87.7	89.5
2 to 3	9.4	15.8	2 to 3	90.6	84.2
3 to 4	11.0	18.8	3 to 4	89.0	81.2
4 to 5	12.1	9.3	4 to 5	87.9	90.7
5 to 6	11.4	7.9	5 to 6	88.6	92.1
6 to 7	14.7	20.9	6 to 7	85.3	79.1
7 to 8	15.9	3.0	7 to 8	84.1	97.0
8 to 9	11.6	9.0	8 to 9	88.4	91.0
9 to 10	14.5	15.0	9 to 10	85.5	85.0
10 to 11	8.8	5.1	10 to 11	91.2	94.9
11 to 12	12.6	-14.5	11 to 12	87.4	114.5

N.B. = Rates calculated show gross, not net results since repeaters are included (net depletion/drop-out would be higher, retention lower if repeaters were not included in calculation). In the absence of exact repetition data, an estimate of x% average repetition would need to be applied for net results.

Graph 13 -



Graph 14 -



World Food Programme

پروگرام غذائی جهان

Afghanistan

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

Survival, Drop-out and other Indicators

Compilation of some Basic School Statistics in the Afghan School System

Analysis:
WFP CO AFG, Education Unit

Main Source:
Unicef RALS
(Rapid Assessment of Learning Spaces)
2002 & 2003/4 data

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Important Note / Disclaimer

Whereas all the rates contained in the report can be considered to give a very accurate picture of existing proportions, all the absolute numbers presented are not exact figures but merely approximations based on a variety of sources. Absolute RALS figures do not reflect the entire enrolment since due to security restrictions and other limitations the assessments captured only 80-90% of existing schools. Enrolment breakdown by gender and total figures for 2003 and 2004 have been adjusted to be in line with the 2005 school enrolment as presented by the Ministry of Education / Planning Department. Potential users need to be cautioned that absolute figures presented under 1.1 represent the highest possible level of enrolment at primary and secondary level, whereas non-adjusted RALS totals represent the minimum threshold of absolute enrolment. It is hoped that the planned 2005 school survey will rectify the situation by providing exact up-to-date figures that will allow for pin-point precision in logistical planning.

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Contents

Tables

Graphs

1. STUDENT POPULATION

1.1. In 2004, the total primary school student population surpassed 4.5 million whereas in 2003 it stood at slightly more than 4 million. In 2003, app. 520 thousand school children were registered in secondary school (grades 7-12), while in 2004, absolute secondary enrolment was app. 625 thousand.

In 2004, absolute enrolment in grades 1-6 reached 3.5-4 million children aged 6 to 12 (and an overall total of app. 4.65 million including over-aged children), corresponding to more than 60% of the primary school age population, at a gender ratio of almost two boys for every two girls. Provided the positive trend continues, absolute enrolment is expected to have increased to app. 4.9 million primary school students including community-based schools (app. 80% of the eligible school age population in the age bracket of 6 to 12 year olds) by the end of 2005 and to rise by up to 5 percent per year before stabilizing at over 5.5 million (equivalent to a net enrolment rate of more than 90%) around 2012.

Table 1 -	*Enrolment in AFG school system*							
	1978	2000	2001	2002		2003	2004	2005
no. of students (incl. sec.)	1,059,650	810,246	799,061	3,697,135		4,655,733	5,280,032	app. 5.575m
					PS*	4,134,759	4,654,713	app. 4.9m
					SS**	521,174	625,319	675,000
no. of first graders (new enrollees plus repeaters)	137,360	130,255	808,656	915,798		1,303,605	1,214,407	app. 1.85m (incl. CBS)
(source = CSO yearbook Issue No. 24/Spt 2003; Unicef/MoE data; Unicef RALS data, 2005 data = MoE & extrapolation CN)								
NOTE: All total enrolment figures as well as Primary School enrolment figures incl. over-age students!								
* PS = Primary School Level (grades 1-6) / ** SS = Secondary School Level (grades 7-12, incl. Middle/High Schools)								

Table 2 – Absolute enrolment by gender and grade level (primary/secondary)

2002			
	Total 1-6		Total Grade 1-6
	M	F	M+F
Grand Total	2,332,148	1,002,758	3,334,907

2003									
	Total 1-6		Grand Total 1-6	Total 7-12		Grand Total 1-12	Total 1-12		Grand Total 1-12
	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F
Grand Total	2,803,687	1,331,072	4,134,759	404,421	116,753	521,174	3,207,908	1,447,825	4,655,733

2004									
	Total 1-6		Grand Total 1-6	Total 7-12		Grand Total 1-12	Total 1-12		Grand Total 1-12
	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F
Grand Total	3,131,223	1,523,490	4,654,713	474,975	150,344	625,319	3,606,198	1,673,834	5,280,032
RALS data adjusted by 20% increase to reflect actual absolute enrolment.									

1.2. Between 2003 and 2004, the student number including grades 1 to 12 increased by 13%. The total male student population increased by 12% from 2003 to 2004, whereas the number of female students from grades 1 to 12 increased by 16%.

Table 3 – Enrolment increase in % (grades 1 to 12)

	2003	2004	% increase
Male	2,673,257+	3,005,165+	12
Female	1,206,521+	1,394,862 +	16
Total	3,879,778+	4,400,027+	13

(Totals are based on RALS assessment which covers most but not all districts of the country ; thus the totals represent the minimum threshold of actual enrolment, to which the enrolment figures of non-assessed districts have to be added. However, this does not affect the accuracy of the rates since the sample is representative for the entire country.)

1.3. The primary (grades 1-6) student population's increase was 20.2% for boys and 32.7% for girls, between 2002 and 2003. The following year, the magnitude of the increase was considerably less pronounced across gender categories (11.7% for boys, 14.5% for girls). Interestingly, the percentual increase in girls remained app. 1.5 times higher than the increase in boys. The total increase including both boys and girls stood at app. 24% from 2002 to 2003, this increase being reduced by half for the following year (12.6%).

Table 4 - Relative increase (in %), 2002-3 and 2003-4 / grade 1-6

	2002-3	2003-4
Male	20.2	11.7
Female	32.7	14.5
Total	23.8	12.6

1.4. The number of secondary grade students increased by 20% from 2003 to 2004. The total number of male secondary students increased by 17.4%, whereas the number of females increased by 28.8%. Again, the relative increase in girls was app. 1.5 times higher than the relative increase in boys.

Table 5 - Relative increase (in %), 2003-4 / grade 7-12

Male	17.4
Female	28.8
Total	20.0

2. DISTRIBUTION BY GRADE AND GENDER

2.1. At both the primary and secondary school level, boys clearly outnumber girls, but the tendency towards gender parity reflected in the 2002-3 trend persisted from 2003-4, although to a lesser degree. Whereas from 2002-3, the 7:3 ratio approached a 2/3 split, the difference from 2003-4 is only .5 (67.8% to 67.3% for the male share and 32.2% to 32.7% for the girls' prorate).

Table 6 - Gender distribution in % per education level (primary / middle & secondary)

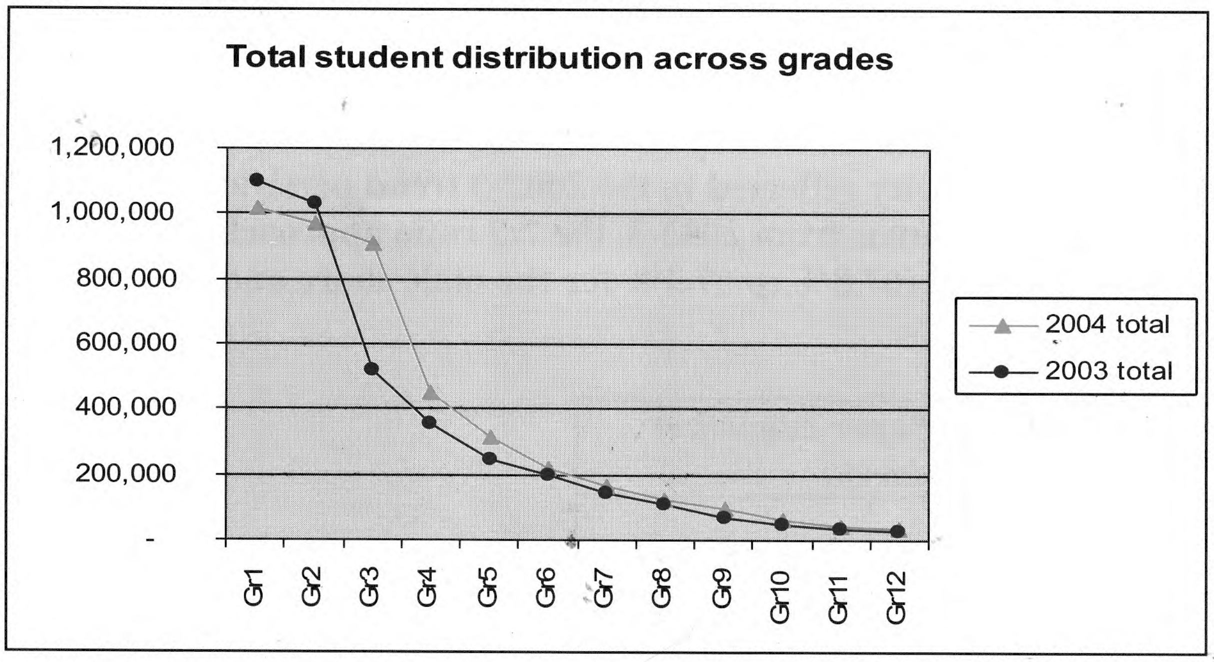
	Grade 1-6			Grade 7-12	
%	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004
Male	70	67.8	67.3	77.6	76
Female	30	32.2	32.7	22.4	24

2.2. The gender breakdown of absolute enrolment figures by grade and the corresponding graph, follow hereafter (figures reflect non-adjusted RALS data, i.e. should be used as minimum threshold values if looking at absolute enrolment figures ; again, this does not affect the accuracy of presented rates shown in the graphs):

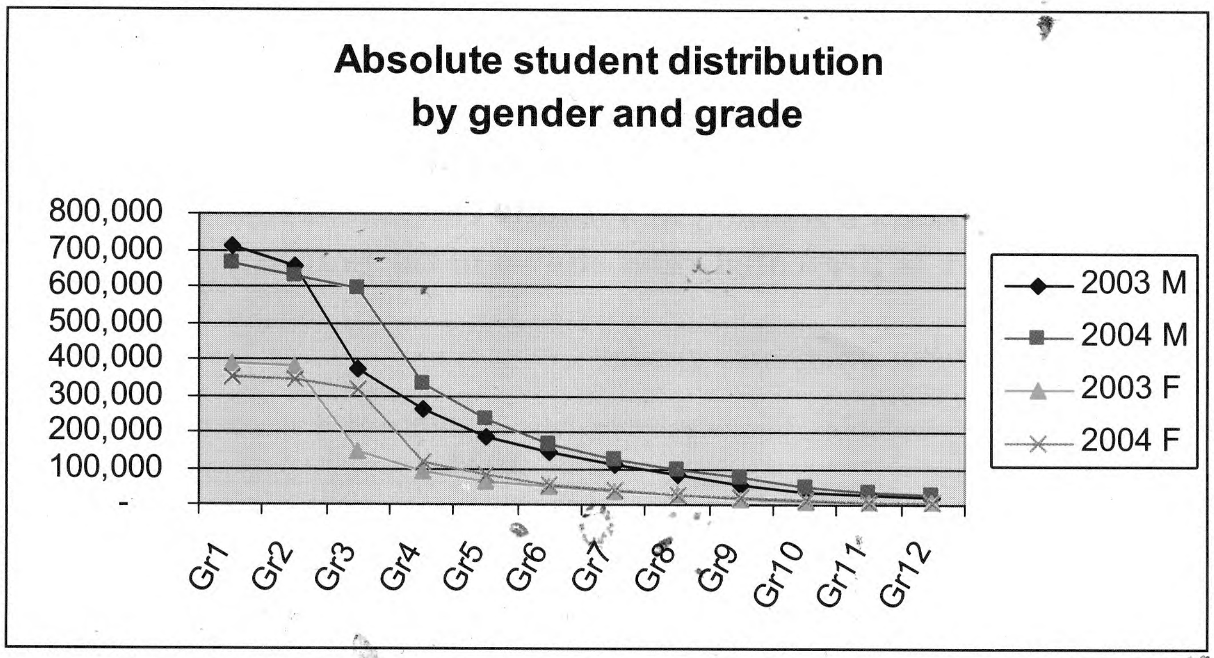
Table 7 – Absolute student distribution across grades

	2003			2004		
Grade	M	F	total	M	F	total
1	713,477	383,830	1,097,308	661,779	351,704	1,013,484
2	652,650	377,733	1,030,383	625,822	343,671	969,494
3	374,440	146,727	521,167	590,990	318,187	909,178
4	264,119	90,208	354,326	333,240	119,105	452,345
5	186,608	59,830	246,438	232,104	81,798	313,902
6	145,112	50,899	196,011	165,416	55,110	220,526
7	113,102	31,205	144,308	123,755	40,272	164,027
8	83,128	24,250	107,379	95,081	30,254	125,335
9	52,925	16,748	69,673	73,459	22,076	95,535
10	37,342	9,788	47,130	45,246	14,230	59,476
11	27,708	8,009	35,717	34,055	9,285	43,340
12	22,645	7,294	29,939	24,217	9,169	33,386

Graph 1 -



Graph 2 -

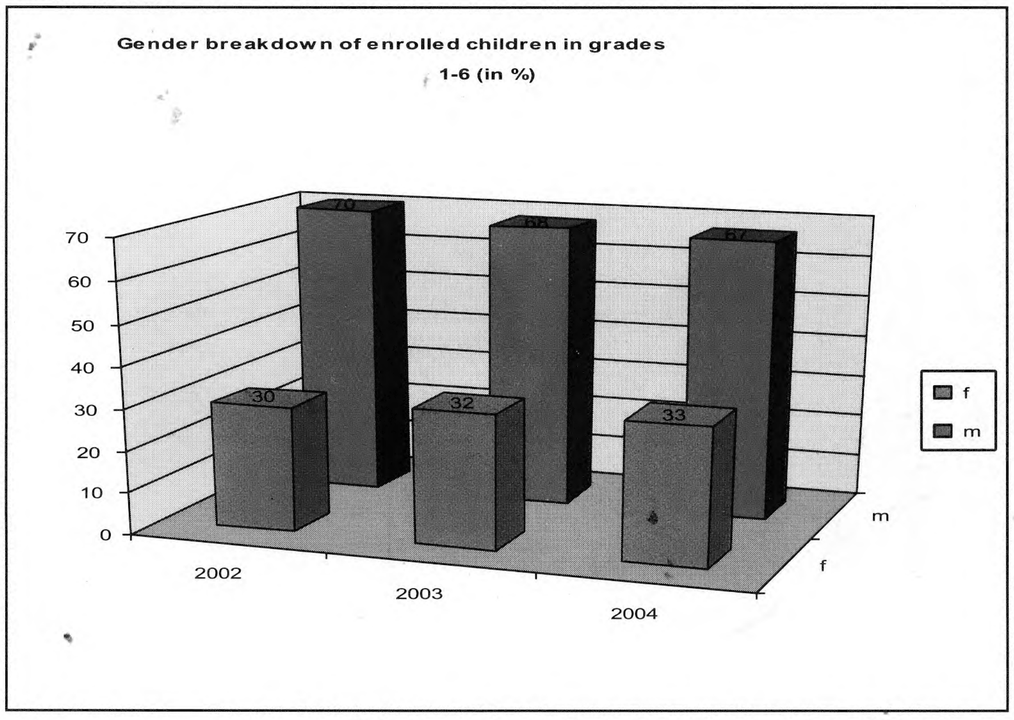


2.3. The gender distribution (in %), by grade and year shows a pattern of larger male student proportion in the higher school grades.

Table 8 - Gender distribution in % per grade level

Gender distribution in % per grade level		Grade	M	F	M	F
	Primary Education	1	65	35	65	35
		2	63	37	65	35
		3	72	28	65	35
		4	75	25	74	26
		5	76	24	74	26
		6	74	26	75	25
	Secondary Education	Grade	M	F	M	F
		7	78	22	75	25
		8	77	23	76	24
		9	76	24	77	23
		10	79	21	76	24
		11	78	22	79	21
		12	76	24	73	27

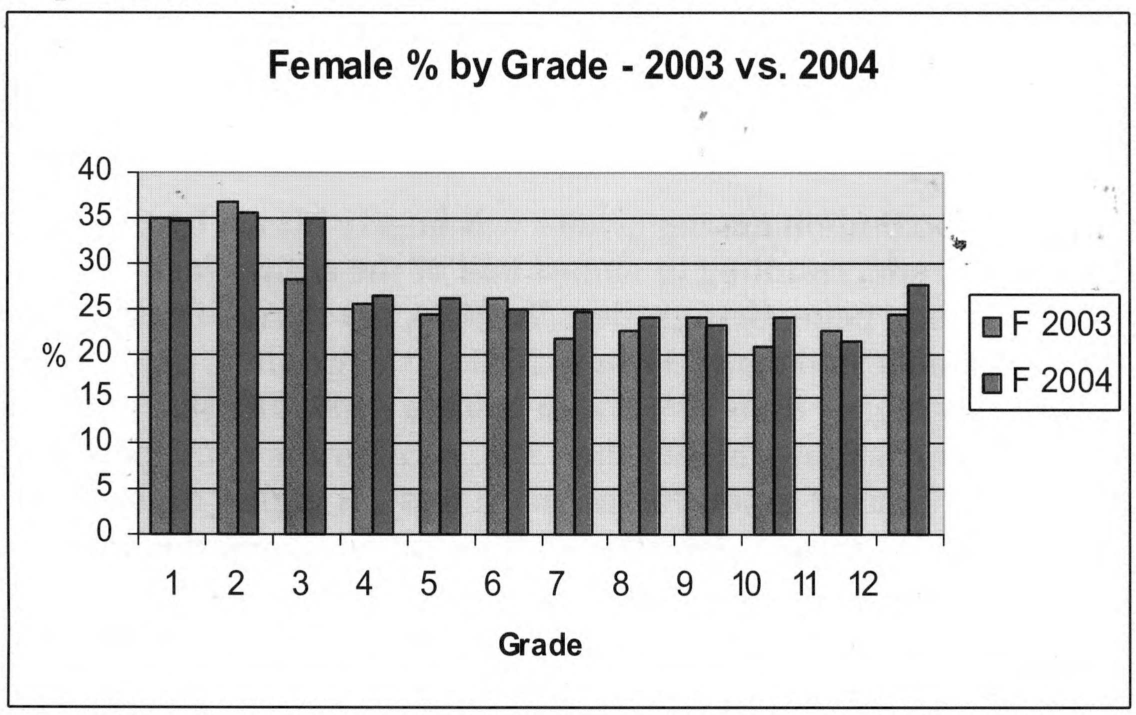
Graph 3 -



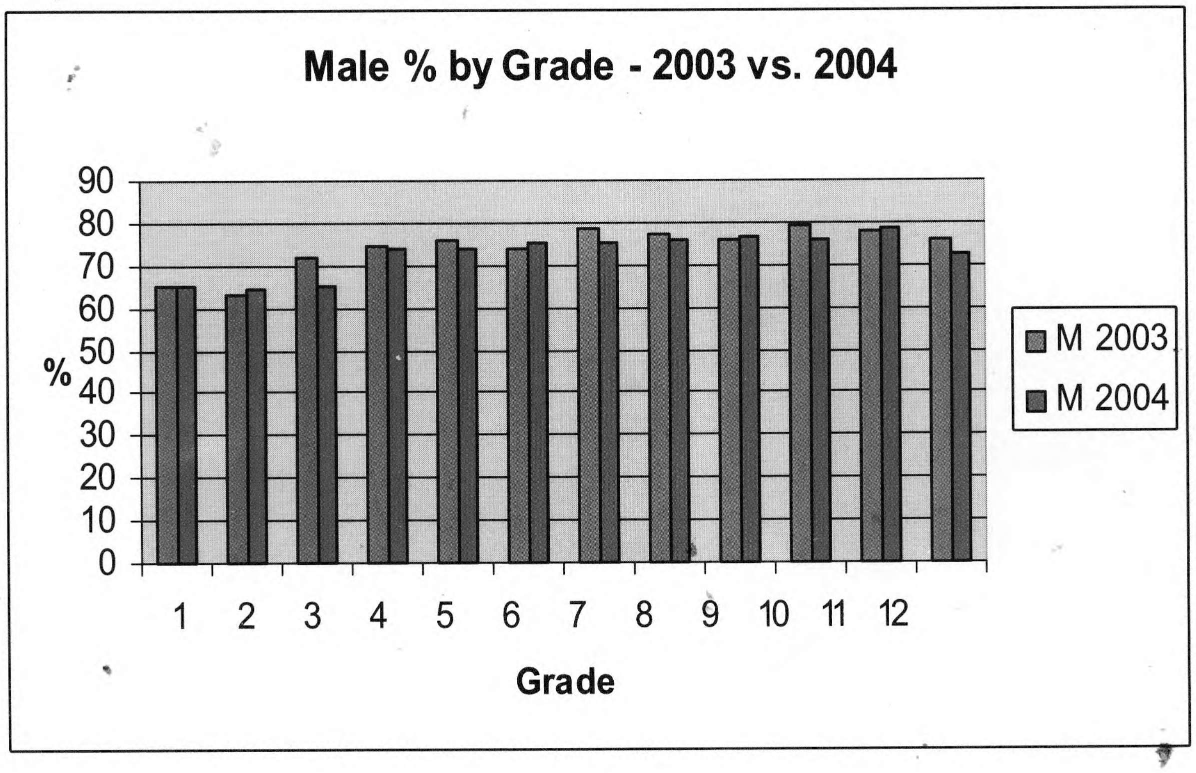
Within the primary grades, the average male gender proportion was 71% in 2003. In 2004, it was slightly lower (69.5%). In the secondary school segment, the proportion was 77.5% in 2003 and 76% in 2004. The average male proportion was 74% in 2003 and 73% in 2004.

Table 9 -	*Average gender proportion (in %) by grade*			
Grade	**M 2003**	**M 2004**	**F 2003**	**F 2004**
Grade 1-6	71	69.5	29	30.5
Grade 7-12	77.5	76	22.5	24
Average	74	73	26	27

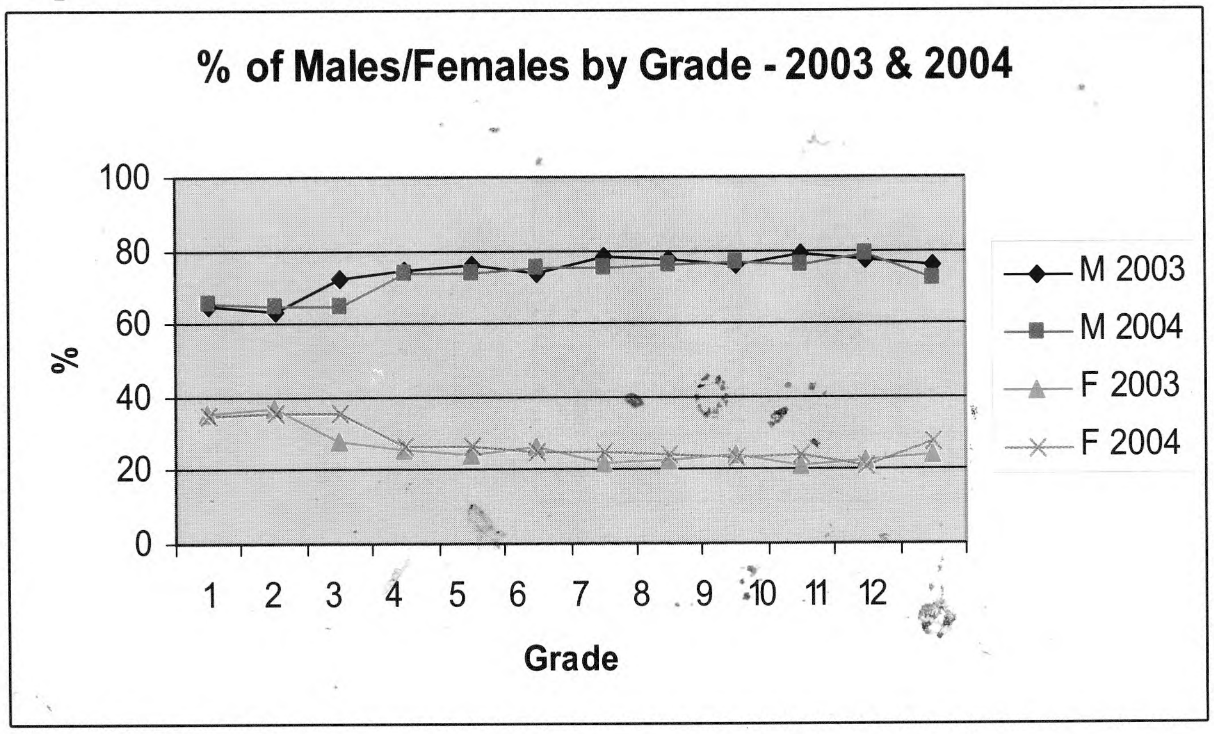
Graph 4 -



Graph 5 -



Graph 6 -



2.4. **In 2002, the total student distribution among grades was hugely biased by the massive enrolment in first grade, resulting in almost half of the entire (incl. secondary school) student body being first graders. In 2004, the share of first graders among the total student number had come down to 23%. As of grade 4, the percentage has not been any higher than 10%, from 2002 to 2004. The share of fifth graders in this period was only slightly higher than 5%. As of grade 6, the percentage share was not higher than 5%, as of grade 10, the share was not higher than 1% of the total student population. Whereas a depletion of the student population is commonplace and can be found in any given school system, the extremely low proportion of middle and high school students will need to be addressed to achieve acceptable levels of education resulting in sustainable economic growth in the country.**